

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A connecting piece, intended for connecting at least two elements (~~2, 3~~), whereby a first element $[(2)]$ is connected to a first end of the connecting piece $[(1)]$ and a second element $[(3)]$ is connected to a second end of the connecting piece $[(1)]$, the body $[(4)]$ of the connecting piece $[(1)]$ being mainly of plastic and a metal insert provided with a thread $[(6)]$ being arranged at at least one end of the connecting piece $[(1)]$, whereby at least one element (~~2, 3~~) is connectable to the connecting piece $[(1)]$ with threaded connection and there is at least one gripping element on the outer surface of the connecting piece $[(1)]$ for rotating the connecting piece $[(1)]$ or keeping it still upon making the threaded connection, characterized in that the gripping element comprises at least two straight portions $[(10)]$ such that two straight portions $[(10)]$ on opposite sides of the connecting piece $[(1)]$ are parallel, the straight portions $[(10)]$ forming gripping surfaces for a tool, and that there is a rounded portion $[(11)]$ between adjacent straight portions $[(10)]$, whereby the gripping element is formed such that the tool round the gripping element slips before the thread $[(6)]$ and/or the basic structure of the connecting piece $[(1)]$ gets damaged.

2. (Currently amended) A connecting piece according to claim 1, characterized in that the gripping element comprises six straight portions $[(10)]$.

3. (Currently amended) A connecting piece according to ~~claim 1 or 2~~ claim 1, characterized in that the gripping element is formed of two or more ribs $[(9)]$ in the direction of the periphery of the connecting piece.

4. (Currently amended) A connecting piece according to claim 3, characterized in that the outer surface of the metal insert [(5)] is provided with ribs [(12)] in the direction of the periphery, the ribs [(12)] of the metal insert [(5)] and the ribs [(9)] on the outer surface of the connecting piece [(1)] being arranged at the same point.

5. (Currently amended) A connecting piece, intended for connecting at least two elements (2, 3), whereby a first element [(2)] is connected to a first end of the connecting piece [(1)] and a second element [(3)] is connected to a second end of the connecting piece [(1)], the body [(4)] of the connecting piece [(1)] being mainly of thermoplast and a thread [(6)] being formed at at least one end of the connecting piece [(1)], whereby at least one element (2, 3) is connectable to the connecting piece [(1)] with threaded connection and there is at least one gripping element on the outer surface of the connecting piece [(1)] for rotating the connecting piece [(1)] or keeping it still upon making the threaded connection, characterized in that the gripping element comprises at least two straight portions [(10)] such that two straight portions [(10)] on opposite sides of the connecting piece [(1)] are parallel, the straight portions [(10)] forming gripping surfaces for a tool, and that there is a rounded portion [(11)] between adjacent straight portions [(10)], whereby the gripping element is formed such that the tool round the gripping element slips before the thread [(6)] of the connecting piece [(1)] gets damaged.

6. (Currently amended) A connecting piece according to claim 5, characterized in that the gripping element comprises six straight portions [(10)].

7. (Currently amended) A connecting piece according to ~~claim 5 or 6~~ claim 5, characterized in that the gripping element is formed of two or more ribs [(9)] in the direction of the periphery of the connecting piece.

8. (New) A connecting piece according to claim 2, characterized in that the gripping element is formed of two or more ribs in the direction of the periphery of the connecting piece.

9. (New) A connecting piece according to claim 8, characterized in that the outer surface of the metal insert is provided with ribs in the direction of the periphery, the ribs of the metal insert and the ribs on the outer surface of the connecting piece being arranged at the same point.

10. (New) A connecting piece according to claim 6, characterized in that the gripping element is formed of two or more ribs in the direction of the periphery of the connecting piece.